

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawing of Fig. 1 replaces the original sheet of drawing of Fig. 1.

In Fig. 1, labeling of open inner area 55 has been added.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

STATUS OF CLAIMS

In response to the Office Action dated January 19, 2007, claims 1, 3, 4 and 9 has been amended. Claims 1-10 are now active in this application. No new matter has been added.

The indication that claims 8 and 9 are allowable and that claim 4 is objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, is acknowledged and appreciated.

OBJECTION TO CLAIM 4

Independent claim 4 has been objected to as having a minor informality. In this regard, the Examiner has requested that a comma be inserted after "contour of the door" at line 3.

By this response, independent claim 4 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner. Consequently, amended independent claim 4 is believed to be allowable.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3, 6, 7 and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Rashid et al. (USPN 5,536,060).

The Examiner asserts, that Rashid et al. teaches a vehicle door including reinforcement 14. However, the reinforcement panel 14 of Rashid et al. is not formed in a "perimeter shape" as it does not have an inner surface that delineates and surrounds a substantially open inner area. Applicant does not believe that the large hole in the reinforcement portion 14 visible in Fig. 3 can reasonably be interpreted as the substantially open inner area.

At any rate, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite, *inter alia*:

...
a door reinforcement formed in a perimeter shape shaped substantially in conformity with a contour of the door, ***the door reinforcement having a lower lateral wall, a front vertical wall, a rear vertical wall and an upper lateral wall, each of which has an inner surface delineating and surrounding a substantially open inner area;***
a side impact bar traversing the open inner area and secured to the front vertical wall and the rear vertical wall...

The paragraph beginning at page 5, line 10 of the specification has been amended to include:

The perimeter shape of the door reinforcement 12 has a lower lateral wall 121, a front vertical wall 122, a rear vertical wall 123 and an upper lateral wall 124, each of which has an inner surface delineating and surrounding a substantially open inner area 55.

In addition, a replacement sheet of drawing for Fig. 1 now labels the open inner area 55.

Reinforcement panel 14 of Rashid et al. does not have a lower lateral wall, a front vertical wall, a rear vertical wall and an upper lateral wall, each of which has an inner surface delineating and surrounding a substantially open inner area and there is no disclosure or suggestion of a side impact bar traversing the open inner area and secured to the front vertical wall and the rear vertical wall. Thus, amended independent claim 1 is patentable over Rashid et al., as are dependent claims 2, 3, 5-7 and 10. Consequently, the allowance of claims 1-3, 5-7 and 10, as amended, is respectfully solicited.

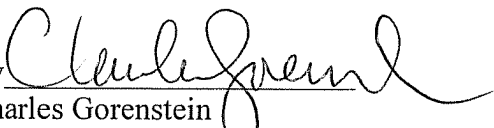
CONCLUSION

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Edward J. Wise (Reg. No. 34,523) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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